
Accreditation Report – Northern State University

Date of Review: November 10, 2020

Overall Score: 91.3%

REVIEW PROCESS:

Northern State University (NSU) was reviewed by The Department of Social Services, Office of Licensing and Accreditation for adherence to the Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) on November 10, 2020. This report contains the following:

- Agency Summary
- Administrative Findings
- Areas of Strengths
- Areas of Recommendations
- Areas Requiring a Plan of Correction
- Prior Areas Addressed in Previous Review
- Accreditation Results

The accreditation results are derived from an administrative score which includes the scoring of policies and procedures and personnel files. The level of accreditation status is based on the overall accumulative score.

AGENCY SUMMARY:

NSU is a non-profit prevention agency within the Counseling Center on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Staff include credentialed counselors and graduate assistants. The agency is seeking to renew accreditation for prevention.

NSU's mission is to help students resolve personal difficulties that may interfere with optimal personal and academic functioning and to acquire the skills, attitudes, abilities, and knowledge that will enable them to attain education and personal goals.

NSU created a coalition consisting of students, Aberdeen Police Department, NSU staff and community members. NSU also has strong partnerships with the Aberdeen School District, Sheriff's Department, State's Attorney's Office, University of South Dakota Campus Coalition and several others.

AREAS OF STRENGTHS:

The NSU Coalition is made up of a broad group of entities and individuals that demonstrates a commitment by the community to support the program's prevention efforts. Input from this group drives the goals for the program through a round-table discussion format.

AREAS OF RECOMENDATION:

Description: The following areas were identified as areas that the agency is recommended to review and ensure that the areas are corrected. The areas identified met minimum standards which would not require a plan of correction at this time, however they are areas that if found to be unimproved on the next accreditation review could be determined areas of non-compliance requiring a plan of correction.

1. According to 67:61:05:01, each new staff member shall receive the two-step method of tuberculin skin test or a TB blood assay test to establish a baseline within 14 days of employment. Any two documented tuberculin skin tests completed within a 12-month period before the date of employment can be considered a two-step or one TB blood assay test completed within a 12-month period before employment can be considered an adequate baseline test. Skin testing or TB blood assay tests are not required if a new staff, intern or volunteer provides documentation of the last skin testing completed within the prior 12 months. Skin testing or TB blood assay tests are not required if documentation is provided of a previous position reaction to either test.

One employee file that was reviewed did not follow the two-step TB test requirement.

AREAS REQUIRED FOR PLANS OF CORRECTION:

Description: The following areas will require a plan of correction to address the rules of non-compliance which shall include an updated policy and/or procedure, a time frame for implementation of this procedure, the staff position or title responsible for implementation and the staff position or title responsible for ensuring continued compliance of these rules.

1. According to 67:61:05:01 Tuberculin screening requirements for employees are as follows:
 - (1) Each staff member, intern and volunteer with a positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test or TB blood assay test shall be evaluated annually by a licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or a nurse and a record maintained of the presence or absence of symptoms of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. If this evaluation results in suspicion of active tuberculosis, the licensed physician shall refer the staff member, intern, or volunteer for further medical evaluation to confirm the presence or absence of tuberculosis; and
 - (2) A new staff member, intern or volunteer who provides documentation of a positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test or TB blood assay test shall have a medical evaluation and chest X-ray to determine the presence or absence of the active disease.
 - (3) Each staff member intern and volunteer with a positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test or TB blood assay test shall be evaluated annually by a licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or a nurse and a record maintained of the presence or absence of symptoms of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. If this evaluation results in suspicion of active tuberculosis, the licensed physician shall refer the staff member, intern or volunteer for further medical evaluation to confirm the presence or absence of tuberculosis; and
 - (4) Any employee confirmed or suspected to have infectious tuberculosis shall be restricted from employment until a physician determines that the employee is no longer infectious.

NSU's policy and procedures manual does not reflect requirements three and four as outlined above.

PRIOR AREAS REQUIRING A PLAN OF CORRECTION:

Description: NSU was last reviewed by the Department of Social Services, Office of Accreditation and Licensure on April 24, 2018. The 2018 review identified two areas of recommendations and four areas requiring a plan of correction. NSU resolved two out of the two areas of prior recommendations and three out of



four prior areas requiring a plan of correction. The prior plan of correction was for 67:61:05:01(1).

ACCREDITATION RESULTS:

Administrative Review Score: 91.3%

X	Three Year Accreditation (90%-100%)
	Two Year Accreditation (70%-89%)
	Probation (69% and below)